(internal) battle card for church nerds v. 1.0

More of my AI-generated hypocrisy for fellow church nerds.
Parlor game: how many logs do I have in my eyes? Closest guess gets a Catholic Study Bible and the full set of Karl Barth's *Church Dogmatics.*

I. Prioritize Experiential Faith Over Abstraction

- **Focus on God's love itself, not ideas about it.** Theology can easily become a substitute for encounter. Redirect your energy from analyzing concepts to living in the reality of God's love.

- **Keep the gospel simple.** At its heart it says, "God loves you." Complexity may impress, but it also obscures—and in some cases becomes something dark, even demonic.

- **Share wisdom broadly.** Christian insight isn't meant to be hoarded by theologians, clergy, or "church nerds." Scatter it into everyday life where ordinary people can recognize it as their own.

- **Emphasize encounter over explanation.** The Creed is not a menu to debate; it's a meal to be eaten. The real test of faith is whether it changes your life, not whether you can argue its mechanics.

- **Proclaim rather than market.** The early Church did not sell or package the gospel—it simply proclaimed good news in the raw language of suffering, longing, and hope. The same gospel still speaks best to fishermen, prostitutes, zealots, tax collectors—not consumers.

- **Make room for mystery.** Christian life should include the unclassifiable and the mystical—Ignatian discernment, contemplative prayer, Eucharistic encounter, charismatic openness. Arguments about mechanics miss the point; the gift is Christ's presence.

- **Practice radical simplicity.** The gospel is not complicated; the hard part is living its simplicity every day. Cultivate a spirit of peace that attracts others not by argument, but by the quiet gravity of love.

- **Trust inner discernment.** Sometimes conventional wisdom is more like Pilate washing his hands than true care. Don't be afraid to trust your gut—even to walk away from

doctors, therapists, or pastors whose advice deepens your suffering instead of healing it.

II. Critique Institutions and Call for Resurrection

- **Expose hollow religion.** Speak directly against the pious platitudes, hollow rituals, and institutional hypocrisies that drain faith of substance.

- **Challenge false masculinities.** “Manly man Christianity” and tribalist theologies wound as much as they pretend to heal. Faith should form disciples, not caricatures.

- **Let dead institutions die.** Saying “ACNA is dead” is not an insult but a call to resurrection. Grandeur, culture wars, and remnant pride all have to be buried before new life can appear.

- **Re-center the gospel.** When churches obsess over “Western civilization” or any other side project, they miss the heart of Christ. Better to learn from global Christianity—or even from a rabbi, a Buddhist, or an AI—than to confuse the gospel with cultural preservation.

- **Reject formula faith.** Christianity is not a paint-by-numbers spirituality, a set of transactions, or a prosperity scheme. Academic theology cut off from parish life can be just as hollow.

- **Resist rigid control.** “Believe or burn” threats, prosperity promises, doctrinal policing—these shrink the gospel into something God never intended.

- **Embrace suffering as a teacher.** Suffering is not just misfortune; it is a path to divine understanding, contentment, and solidarity with Christ crucified.

- **Value community over performance.** Authentic church life means bearing one another’s burdens, acknowledging imperfection, and resisting the temptation to appear polished or triumphant.

- **Stay open to outsiders.** Profound truth often comes from unexpected places: a song, a secular story, a stranger’s perspective. God is not limited to our categories.

- **Beware spiritual pride.** Intellectual brilliance and spiritual accomplishment can become their own idols. Cultivate the quiet dignity of ordinary faith instead.

- **Speak prophetically.** Like the Desert Fathers, let your scars and weaknesses be your testimony. Honesty about sin and foolishness can become the very thing that makes Christ visible.

Sources and Style

My blog is “vendor verbal vomit.” The only things I have to sell are sin, confusion, profanity, despair, and death. My hope is that the Holy Spirit will compost this heap into something useful.

Themes from posts include:

- *The Naked Gospel: A Manifesto of the Soul*
- *ACNA is dead.*
- *When Theology Becomes Trauma*
- *beatitudes vs. bullshit*
- *Hell is the Pathway to Heaven*
- *Don’t be afraid to fire your doctors*

Take it or leave it. It’s free.

More resources: https://boydcamak.wordpress.com/zine-1-0/